ABSTRACT

A method and system for handling attributes in a document management system are disclosed. A system and method in accordance with the present invention uses virtual attributes for searching for attributes in child index classes for obtaining the corresponding parent index class in the search result. Therefore, multiple mapping of attributes via the class definitions can be performed, particularly during run-time of the underlying document management system. Accordingly, the obtained attribute hierarchy is hidden or transparent to a user of the system. In addition, a system and method in accordance with the present invention enables dynamic extension of attributes during run-time of the underlying document management system.